

DYNAMIC RESPONSE AND SAFETY OF OFFSHORE PLATFORMS  
USING THE RANDOM DECREMENT TECHNIQUE

by

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Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of  
the University of Maryland in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Science

1982

## ABSTRACT

Title of Thesis: Dynamic Response and Safety of Offshore  
Platforms Using the Random Decrement  
Technique

Edward R. Larach, Master of Science, 1982

Thesis directed by: Dr. Jackson C. S. Yang

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An experimental study was performed on a 1:13.8 scale offshore platform model. The natural frequencies of the structure were obtained both experimentally by performing a sine sweep, and numerically using the NASTRAN finite element computer program.

The platform was fatigue cracked and the feasibility of using the Random Decrement Technique to detect structural damage was investigated. The results were analyzed and prove the technique to be useful , and to possess potential for development in a variety of safety related applications.

The response of the platform model to different static loads was also investigated experimentally and numerically to provide some insight on the behavior of the platform. No detailed analysis was performed on these results, but they are included for future reference and consideration.

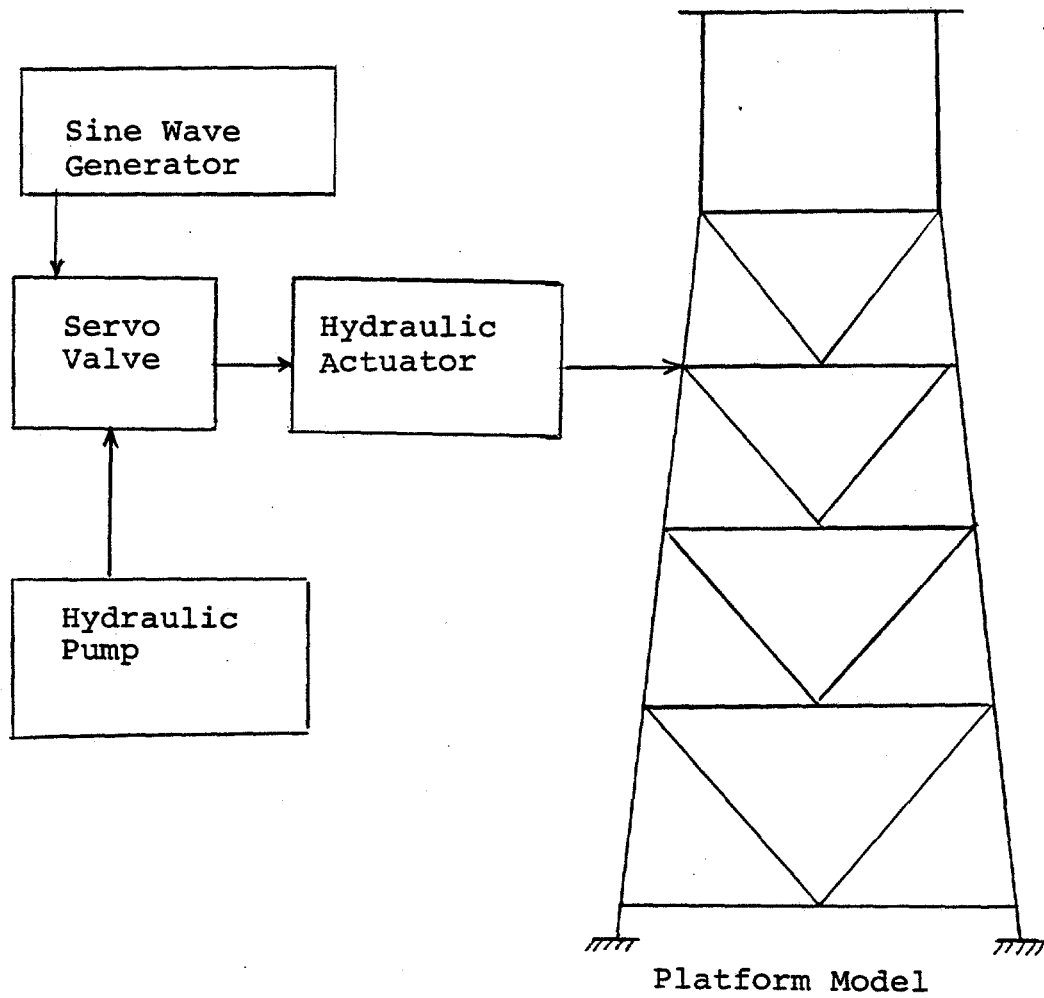


Figure 6. Servo-control Hydraulic Fatigue System

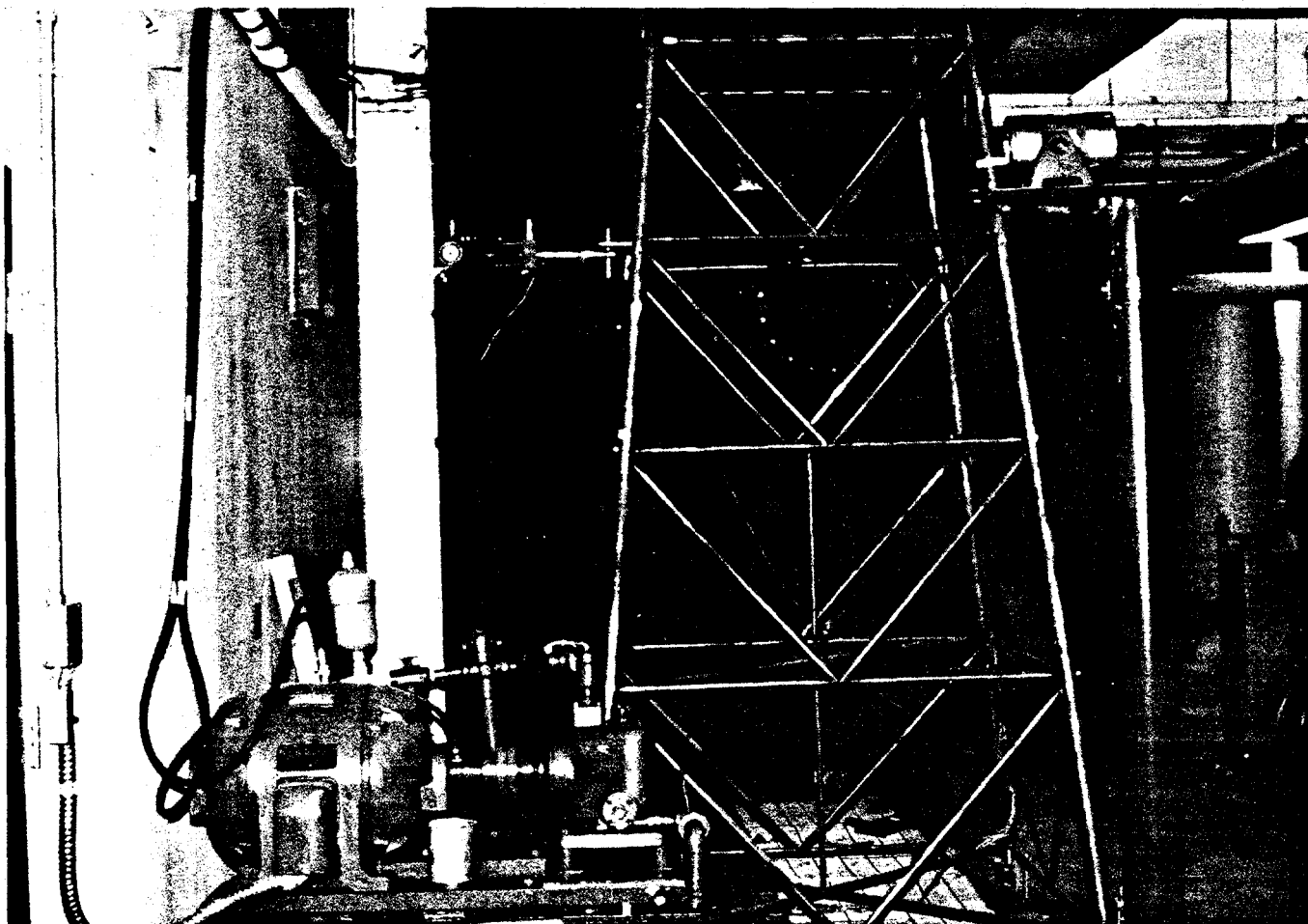


Figure 7. Platform Model Fatigue Test Experimental Set Up

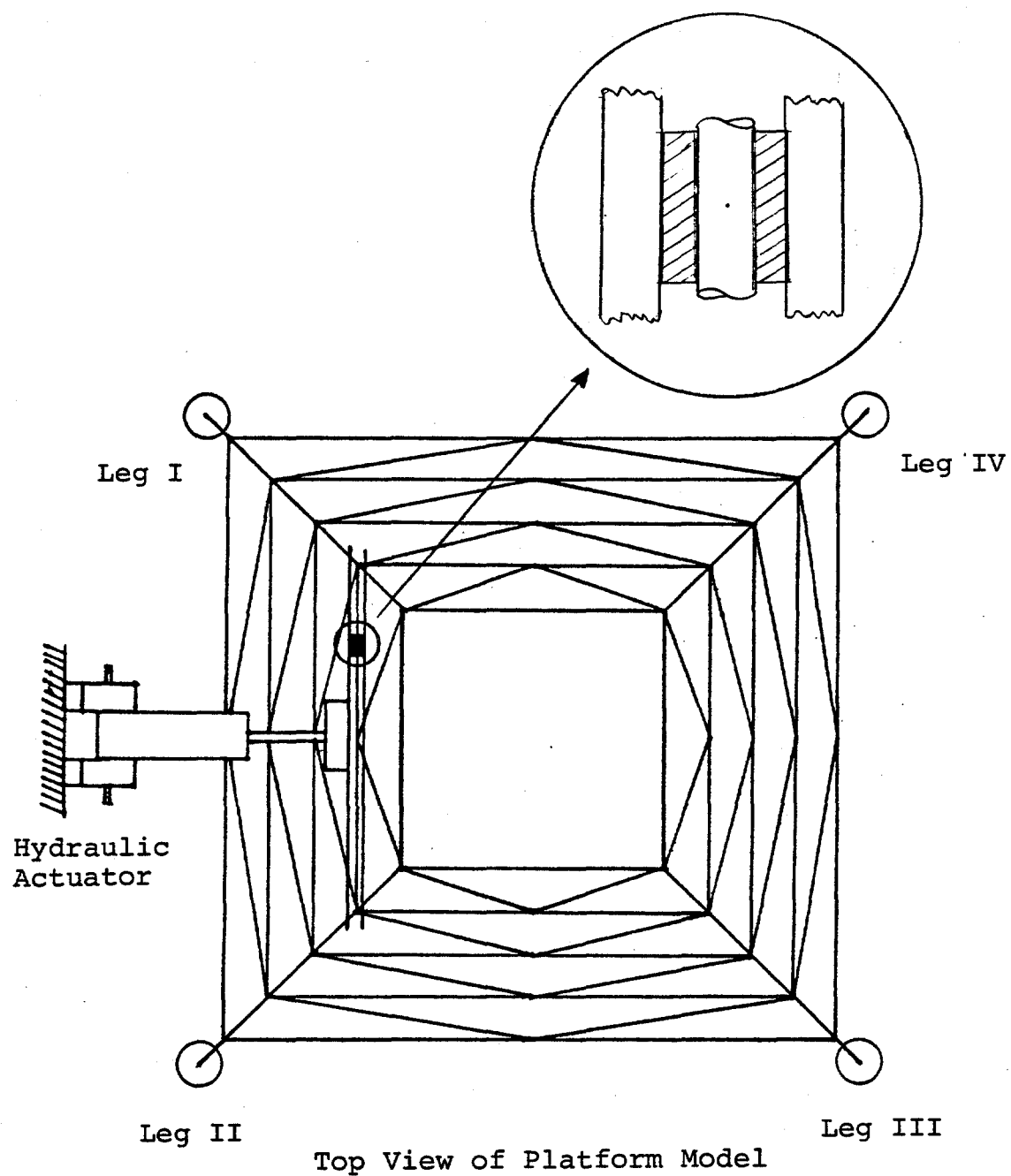


Figure 8. Fatigue Load Application Point

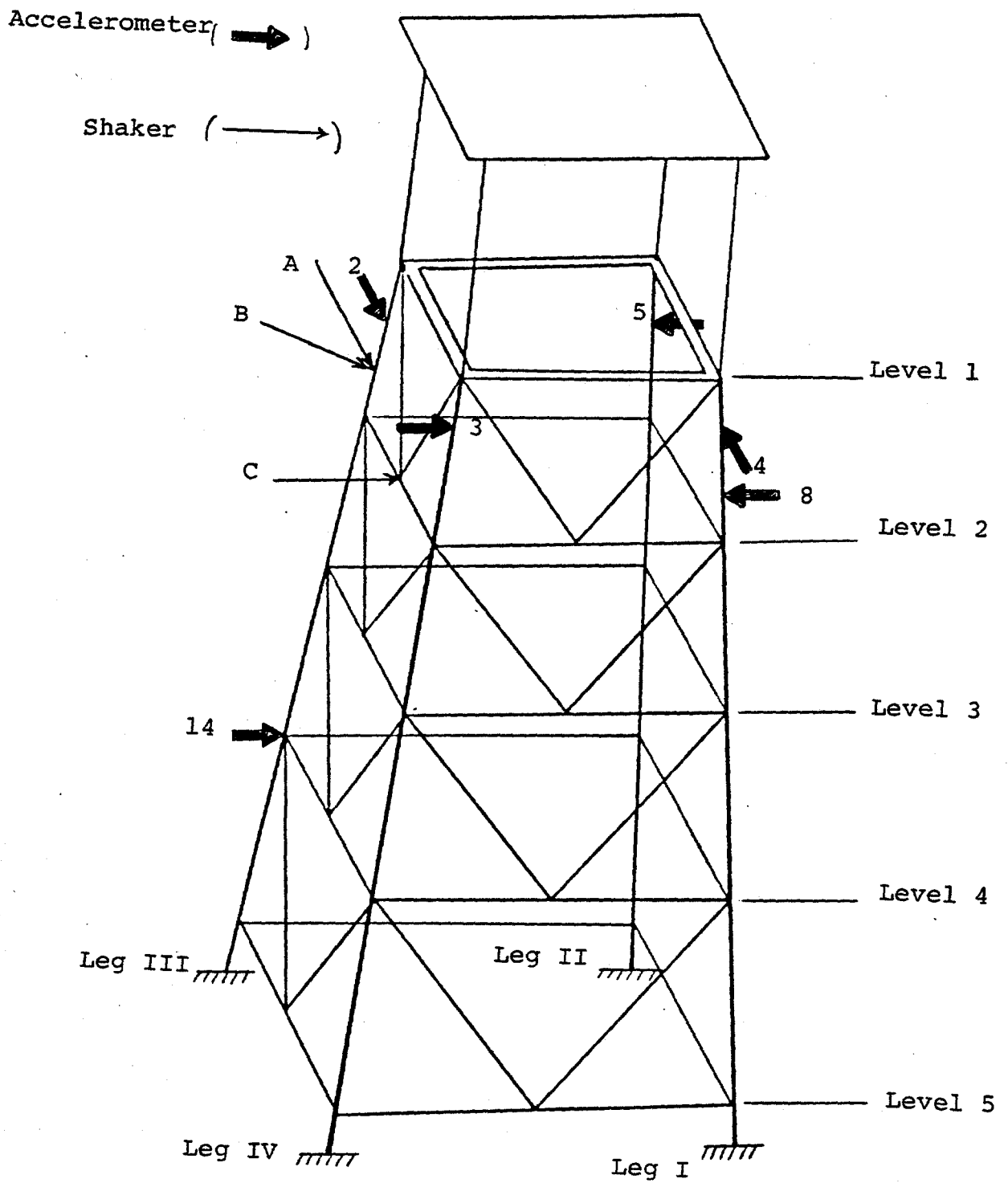
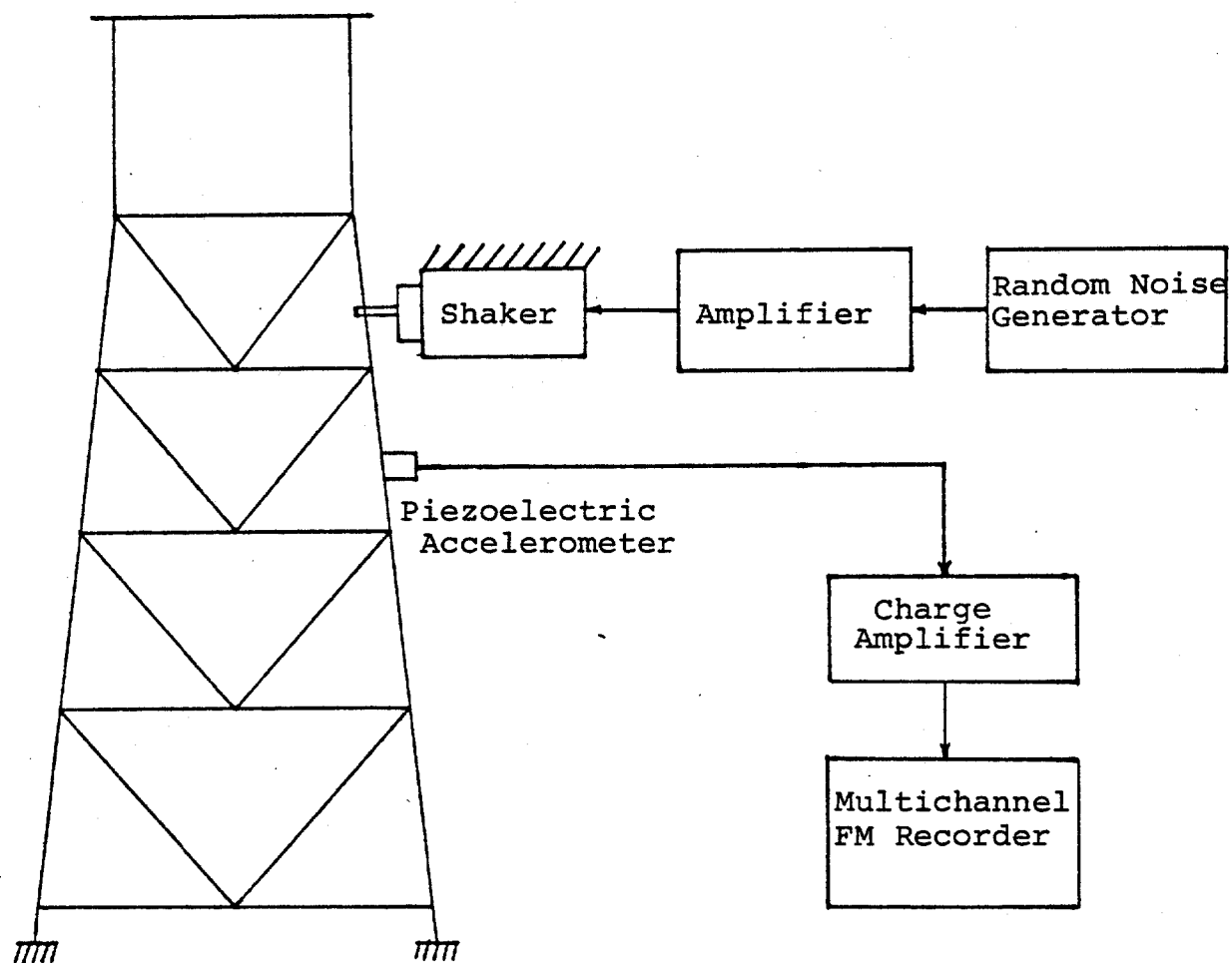


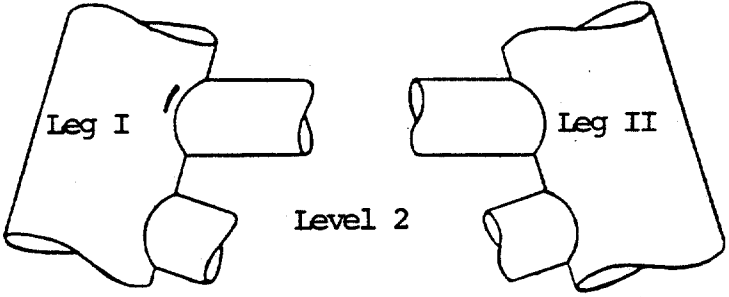
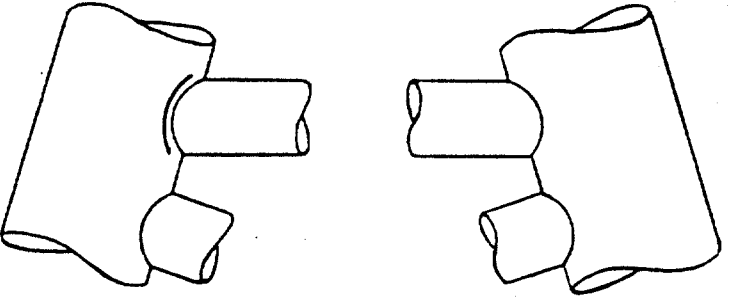
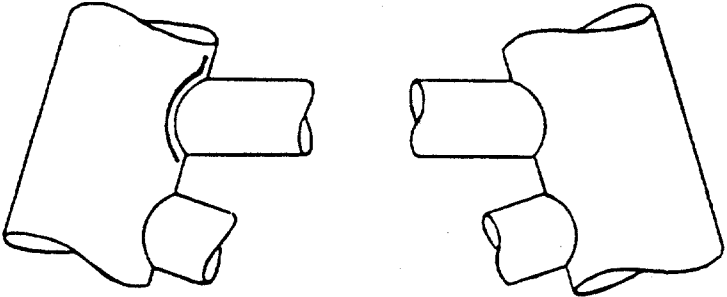
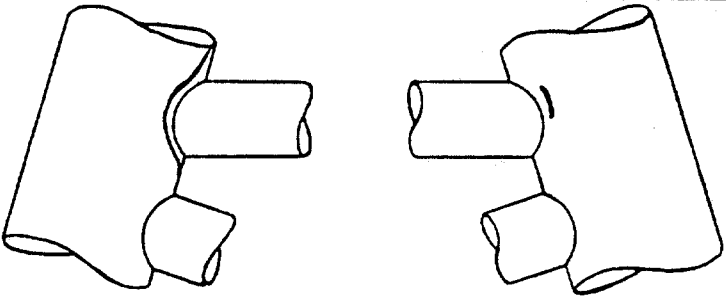
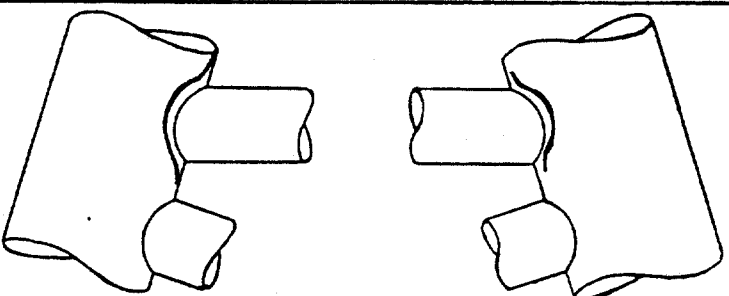
Figure 9. Accelerometer and Shaker Locations for the Fatigue Test



1:13.8 Scale Offshore Platform Model

Figure 10. Random Noise Excitation and Response Signal Recording

Table 3. Fatigue Crack Growth in the Platform Model

Post Crack Recording Number	Number of Fatigue Cycles	Fatigue Crack Growth
1	497,500	
2	507,500	
3	529,400	
4	580,400	
5	640,400	

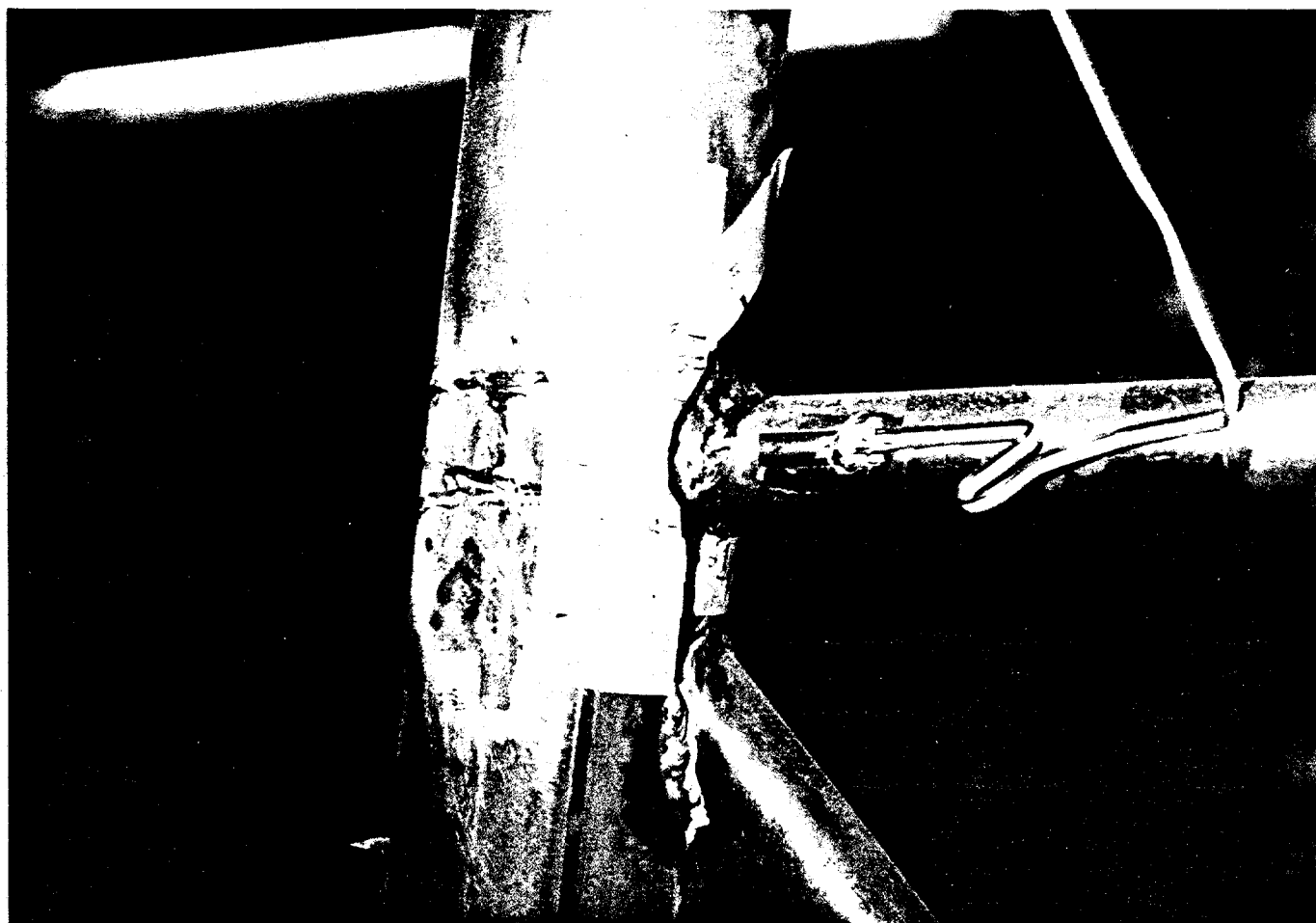


Figure 21. Fatigue Crack in Platform Model ( Leg I, Level 2)



Figure 22. Fatigue Crack in Platform Model (Leg II, Level 2)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Jackson C. S. Yang and Dr. Nicolas Dagalakakis for their advice and encouragement in the preparation of this Thesis ; to Mr. Gary Felser and Mr. Timothy Steinberger for their invaluable assistance in the experiments. Thanks are also due to the office of Naval Research and the United States Geological Survey (Grant N00014-786-0675) who partially supported this research.